6. In view of the new world realities and challenges, there is a pressing need to reform and revitalize UNCTAD, in both its operational and institutional aspects, so that it may continue to better serve the interests of the developing countries. We should ensure that UNCTAD makes a meaningful contribution to improving the conditions of life of all of our peoples. In this respect, we recognize the need to review the implementation of the policies and decisions of the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the system and promote coordination between UNCTAD and other international organizations, in particular WTO and the Bretton Woods institutions.

7. In devising an appropriate and adequate work programme for UNCTAD, without losing its important global macroeconomic analysis functions, in the coming years the main thrust of UNCTAD's work should be along two complementary axes. From its unique development perspective, UNCTAD should contribute to the preparation of the agenda for future multilateral negotiations. Secondly, it should focus on the delivery of practical services to member States in the field of technical cooperation and advice in such areas as trade, negotiations, commodities, investment promotion, enterprise development, trade and environment, trade efficiency and services.

8. The eradication of poverty in large parts of the developing world, especially in least developed countries, low-income countries and other small vulnerable economies, is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative for the international community. In addition to the necessary national action, it also requires significant international cooperation involving private and public sector institutions. In this respect, UNCTAD should play a decisive role in seeking solutions to the problems of poverty, taking into account the results of the World Summit on Social Development.

9. UNCTAD should continue to analyse the issue of external debt which affects many developing countries, with a view to formulating integrated proposals for these countries in order to find comprehensive and durable solutions to debt and debt-service problems aimed at accelerating their economic growth and development. UNCTAD should also reinforce technical cooperation in this matter.

10. We affirm the importance of open and flexible economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) in all its forms, modalities, and geographic scopes as a strategy of growth and development.

11. The Uruguay Round Agreements and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have boosted confidence in the multilateral trading system. However, its credibility and sustainability are being threatened by emerging recourse to unilateral and extraterritorial measures. Environmental and social conditionalities should not constitute new obstacles to market access for developing countries.

12. We express our deep concern at the continuing use of coercive economic measures against developing countries, through, inter alia, unilateral economic and trade sanctions which are in clear contradiction with international law. In this respect, we object to the new attempts aimed at extra-territorial application of domestic law, which constitute a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and of WTO rules.

13. We call for a renewed political commitment to free trade and agree that the Uruguay Round Agreements should be fully implemented in letter and spirit. The universality of WTO, which is of great importance to strengthening and improving the multilateral trading system, must also be realized as soon as possible. Moreover, developing countries seeking accession to the WTO and/or those which are in the early stages of their integration into the international trading system should be given the opportunity to achieve accession on balanced terms consistent with WTO rules, as well as the level of their economic development, trade, and financial and developmental needs.

14. We call on the Conference to make positive contributions to the Singapore Ministerial Meeting of the WTO due to be held in December 1996 by transmitting its assessment of challenges and opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements from a development perspective. This should include, inter alia, new and emerging issues seen from the same perspective in order to ensure that the benefits of the evolving multilateral trading system promotes sustained economic growth and sustainable development by including further trade liberalization in the areas of interest to developing countries.

15. The present situation calls for real partnership and promotion of international cooperation to harness the positive impulses of globalization and liberalization and to forestall the negative implications. UNCTAD IX provides an exceptional opportunity to reinvigorate the dialogue on development and international economic cooperation with a view to revitalizing the development of developing countries through a genuine partnership. All Governments should spare no effort to seize the opportunity of forging a real global partnership aimed at ensuring international peace and development.

16. The international community should promote concrete policies, measures and actions to achieve the objectives of sustained growth and sustainable development. We reiterate, once again, our commitment to the objectives of international peace and development, underlining our conviction that no peace can be achieved without development.

17. We trust that the spirit of South Africa will inspire the continuous and constructive dialogue between all member States of UNCTAD with the ultimate objective of achieving equitable and sustainable development and prosperity for all.

Annex V

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Midrand, South Africa, 1 May 1996

1. The Ministers of the least developed countries, participating in the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Midrand, South Africa, reaffirmed their commitment to the cause of sustained growth and sustainable development in an increasingly globalizing and liberalizing world economy. UNCTAD IX, taking place in the wake of major global conferences, must find new and imaginative ways to respond to the challenges facing the developing countries. They stressed that the decline in the economic performance of LDCs and consequent deepening of poverty and environmental degradation pose major challenges to the international community. They drew attention to the fact that as many as one third of the least developed countries suffer from civil strife and military conflicts and urged that the international community adopt urgent measures to resolve these conflicts so that these countries can resume the process of development and growth.

2. The Ministers stated that the LDCs confront the processes of globalization and liberalization from a position of disadvantage. In the short run, the processes of globalization and liberalization will do little to arrest LDCs' trend towards marginalization; on the contrary, it is feared that these forces may well accentuate it. Enhanced access to expanding global markets requires efficient production structures capable of meeting increasingly exacting demands in terms of quality, cost and delivery structures on international markets. These requirements contrast sharply with the salient characteristics of the LDCs' export sector: serious lack of diversification, exacerbated by widespread shortages of entrepreneurial and managerial skills, technological capacities, physical infrastructure and support services such as finance, marketing and insurance.

3. The Ministers reaffirmed the unique role of UNCTAD, as the focal point at the global level for the monitoring, follow-up and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and called upon UNCTAD to continue to give high priority to issues pertaining to LDCs. The Ministers called upon UNCTAD, in cooperation with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to ensure effective implementation of UN-NADAF. They emphasized that the Trade and Development Board should continue to conduct the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action using the annual LDC Report as the background document. The LDC Report, which contains useful information and analysis and focuses exclusively on the development problematique of the LDCs, should be continued.

4. The Ministers recalled the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action, in which the international community collectively committed itself to reversing the deterioration in the economic, social and ecological situation of the LDCs. The Ministers acknowledged that the LDCs, which have primary responsibility for their own development, will continue to implement economic reform programmes in line with the Programme of Action and the recommendations of the Mid-term Global

Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s. At the same time, they underscored that the development challenges facing LDCs are formidable and cannot be adequately addressed without effective and sufficient support measures by the international community. Such support requires substantial strengthening in all areas, in particular trade, financing and debt, with a view to enabling LDCs to cope with the challenges of globalization and liberalization.

5. The Ministers noted that the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements will involve significant transitional costs for the least developed countries. Erosion of trade preferences and higher bills for the import of food, pharmaceuticals and essential capital goods will create serious difficulties for these countries. The implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration and the Ministerial Decisions in favour of least developed countries are of crucial importance in this regard. The Ministers called for the establishment of a safety net to help LDCs to cope with the adverse effects of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and to better integrate themselves into the international trading system. The Singapore Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization should consider taking some new initiatives in favour of the least developed countries.

6. The Ministers recognized that, in the longer run, globalization and liberalization might give rise to new opportunities for LDCs. However, translating potential opportunities into tangible gains will require major improvements in LDCs' capacities to produce internationally competitive goods and services, which are unlikely to occur unless domestic policies backed by international support are sharply focused on overcoming supply-side deficiencies in LDCs. Particular attention should be given to assisting the land-locked developing countries to overcome their structural and geographical handicaps. The island least developed countries, which continue to face particular problems arising from their smallness, insularity and remoteness from the major economic centres, warrant particular attention and support from the international community.

7. The Ministers noted with deep concern that the donors' aid performance has fallen far short of the commitments in the Programme of Action and that the ODA/GNP ratio for DAC countries as a group actually declined from 0.09 per cent in 1989 and 1990 to 0.07 per cent in 1994. Moreover, the share of LDCs in the aid programmes of the DAC donors has been declining in recent years. The Ministers urged their development partners to make special efforts to improve aid allocations to LDCs with a view to providing them with a substantial increase in the level of external financial resources in line with the commitments undertaken in the Programme of Action and at the Mid-term Global Review. They commended those development partners who have continued to meet the ODA targets and increased their aid to LDCs.

8. The Ministers noted with great concern the uncertain resource situation of the multilateral financial institutions and organizations which provide a significant part of LDCs' external financing. In this regard, they welcomed the recent agreement on the provision of resources to IDA during the eleventh replenishment period and called for generous replenishment also of the African Development Fund and the Asian Development Fund, for a strengthening of the resource base of UNDP and other grant-based multilateral programmes and for timely implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative on

Africa. The Ministers emphasized that the operational funds and programmes of the United Nations system should allocate increased resources for the LDCs in order to accelerate their socio-economic development.

9. The Ministers noted that the LDCs' external debt-service burden remains extremely high and far exceeds the debt-servicing capacity of many LDCs. Although LDCs have benefited from various debt relief measures, these measures have proved to be inadequate in reducing their debt overhang. The Ministers appealed for full cancellation of all bilateral official debt as well as urgent and effective measures for substantial reduction of LDCs' debt stock and debt-service burden for debt owed to multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors. They invited the Bretton Woods institutions to expedite the putting in place of new initiatives to address the issue of multilateral debt.

10. The Ministers expressed strong support for the United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa. They stated that this initiative will complement efforts already under way in the context of the UN-NADAF and urged the international community to strongly support the programme with a full complement of technical and financial resources.

11. The Ministers underlined the need for an appropriate intergovernmental machinery to address LDC issues in an effective manner. They appreciated the UNCTAD Secretary-General's initiative in favour of LDCs, noted with interest his proposal to establish a trust fund for LDCs, and accordingly urged him that the Division for Least Developed Countries in UNCTAD should be strengthened at the level of resources allocated by the United Nations General Assembly. In this connection, the Ministers warmly welcomed the expression of support by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other Ministers and Heads of delegations at UNCTAD IX in favour of LDCs.

12. The Ministers noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/123 of 20 December 1995, recalled that, at the end of the decade, a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s will be carried out and that the General Assembly will consider, at its fifty-second session, the holding of a third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

13. The Ministers drew attention to the opportunity provided by the forthcoming G-7 Summit in Lyon, France, in June 1996 and urged the Heads of State and Government attending the Summit to consider the measures necessary to enhance aid flows and provide greater debt relief for the least developed countries. In this connection, they requested the Government of Bangladesh, in its capacity as Coordinator of the LDCs, to bring to the attention of the Summit issues of particular concern to LDCs and the required concrete international support measures.

Annex VI

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE a/

1. At the 241st plenary meeting, on 30 April 1996, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with rule 14 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee consisting of the following member States: China, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Mali, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela.

2. The Credentials Committee met on 8 May 1996.

3. Mr. Trevor C. Spencer (Trinidad and Tobago) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

4. The UNCTAD secretariat informed the Committee of the status of credentials of representatives as at 8 May 1996. Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, had been submitted by 110 States. The appointment of the representatives of 22 States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD by means of a letter or note verbale or a facsimile from the Permanent Mission in Geneva or New York or the Embassy in Pretoria. The representatives of three States had not so far submitted any communication.

5. The Chairman proposed that the Committee should decide to accept the credentials of the representatives of the member States referred to in paragraph 4. In connection with the credentials which had not yet been submitted in due form, the Chairman proposed that the Committee accept the assurances given by the representatives concerned, on the understanding that their credentials, in conformity with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, would be submitted promptly to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. There was no objection to this proposal.

6. The Chairman then proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee

Having examined the credentials of the representatives of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Accepts the credentials of the representatives to the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recommends to the Conference that it approve the report of the Credentials Committee."

7. The Committee adopted the above draft resolution without a vote.

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a/ Initially issued as TD/376.

8. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution: b/

"CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

"The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee."

9. The Committee endorsed the above proposal without a vote.

10. In light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the Conference.

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b/ For the adopted text, see part one, section C, resolution 173(IX).

Annex VII

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE *

The following States, members of UNCTAD, were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta

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* For list of participants, see TD/INF.34.

Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Palestine attended the Conference as an observer.

The following United Nations bodies were represented at the Conference:

Department of Development Support and Management Services
Joint Inspection Unit
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Population Fund
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

The following specialized agencies and related organization were represented at the Conference:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank
International Monetary Fund
International Telecommunications Union
World Intellectual Property Organization
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Arab Maghreb Union
Caribbean Community
Common Fund for Commodities
Commonwealth Secretariat
Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
European Community
International Cocoa Organization
International Olive Oil Council
International Organization for Migration
International Tropical Timber Organization
Latin American Economic System
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Organization of African Unity

The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the Conference:

General Category

Environmental Development Action in the Third World
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Environmental Law
International Council of Women
International Institute for Sustainable Development
International Organization for Standardization
Lutheran World Federation
Public Services International
Third World Network
World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
World Confederation of Labour
World Federation of United Nations Associations

Special Category

Airlines' Worldwide Telecommunications and Information Services
Consumers International
Development Innovations and Networks

Annex VIII

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. Documents in the general series

Document No.	Title
TD/365	Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Conference and annotations thereto a/
TD/365/Add.1	Organization of work of the Conference
TD/366/Rev.1	Globalization and liberalization: Developments in the face of two powerful currents - Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the ninth session of the Conference
TD/367	Promoting growth and sustainable development in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy: Pre-Conference text
TD/368	Report of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference: note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/369	Basic position of the European Union on UNCTAD IX: note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/370	Ministerial Declarations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean: note by the UNCTAD secretariat The Amman Final Documents (AS/MM/77(VIII)/1/Rev.1) Caracas Declaration (LA/MM/77(VIII)/1) Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX (AF/MM/77(VIII)/1)
TD/371	Pre-Conference Meeting of Senior Officials: report by the Chairman of the meeting
TD/372	Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 b/
TD/373	Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries c/

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a/ For the adopted agenda, see annex I.

b/ Reproduced in annex IV.

c/ Reproduced in annex V.

TD/374	Proposed Trust Fund for least developed countries: an explanatory note
TD/375	Strengthening the participation of developing countries in world trade and the multilateral trading system - Paper prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat and the WTO secretariat, with the assistance of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, as a contribution to UNCTAD IX
TD/376	Credentials of representatives to the Conference: report of the Credentials Committee d/
TD/377	Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development (adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session) e/
TD/378	Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its ninth session

B. Documents in the limited series

TD/L.345	Address by Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the Inaugural Ceremony on 27 April 1996 f/
TD/L.346	Message received from Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana
TD/L.347	Message received from H.E. Mr. V. Chernomyrdin, President of the Government of the Russian Federation
TD/L.348	Message received from the Prime Minister of Mongolia
TD/L.349 and Corr.1	Document submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit - note by the the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/L.350	Document submitted by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) - note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/L.351	Address by H.E. Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, at the Inaugural Ceremony on 27 April 1996 g/

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d/ Reproduced in annex VI.

e/ Reproduced in part one, section A.

f/ Reproduced in annex III, section A.2.

g/ Reproduced in annex III, section A.1.

TD/L.352	Address by Mr. Alec Erwin, Minister for Trade and Industry of South Africa and President of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development h/
TD/L.353	Address by Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of UNCTAD i/
TD/L.354	Message received from H.E. Mr. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China
TD/L.355	Draft report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its ninth session
TD/L.356	Report of the High-level Meeting on Island Developing Countries (New York, 22-23 April 1996) - note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/L.357	Cross-sectoral issues, with particular reference to the critical elements of sustainability: Trade, environment and sustainable development - Decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development on 3 May 1996 (note by the UNCTAD secretariat)
TD/L.358	Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole j/
TD/L.359	A Partnership for Growth and Development: draft final document of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development k/
TD/L.360	Midrand Declaration: text submitted by the President of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development l/

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h/ Reproduced in annex III, section B.1.

i/ Reproduced in annex III, section B.2.

j/ For the adopted resolution, see part one, section C, resolution 172 (IX).

k/ For the adopted text, see part one, section A.

l/ Idem.

C. Documents in the UNCTAD IX series m/

UNCTAD IX/Misc.1 and Corr.1	Report of the International Seminar on Technical Cooperation for Trade and Development in the Face of Globalization (Ascona, Switzerland, 23-24 November 1995)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.2 (English only)	Report of the Topical Seminar on Environment, Competitiveness and Trade: A development Perspective (Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 January 1996)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.3 (English only)	Report of the Conference on East Asian Development: Lessons for a New Global Environment (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 February-1 March 1996)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.4 (English only)	Advance report of the International Round Table: Promotion of Private Sector and the Role of Government (Bonn/Bad Godesberg, Germany, 6-9 February 1996)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.5 (English only)	Report of the Meeting of Experts on Networking among Economic Actors: Technology Partnership for Capacity-building and Competitiveness (Helsinki, Finland, 10-12 April 1996)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.6	Report on the Conference: Capital Flows in Economic Development (Annandale-on-Hudson, United States of America, 7-9 March 1996)
UNCTAD IX/Misc.7	Draft conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Seminar on Globalization and Liberalization: Effects of International Economic Relations on Poverty (Geneva, Switzerland, 15-17 April 1996)

D. Documents in the CRP series n/

TD(IX)/CRP.1 (English only)	Periodic review by the Conference of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX): note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD(IX)/CRP.2 and Add.1	Background information relating to the Pre-Conference Text: proposal by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD(IX)/CRP.3	Priorities and concerns of the African countries in UNCTAD IX: submitted by Ambassador Mounir Zahran (Egypt) on behalf of the African Group at UNCTAD IX

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m/ Distribution restricted.

n/ Idem.

E. Miscellaneous Conference documents

TD(IX)/PCM/Misc.1	Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda of the Meeting of Senior Officials

F. Background documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/15	Trade and Development Report, 1995
UNCTAD/DTCI/26	World Investment Report, 1995
UNCTAD/LDC(1996)	The Least Developed Countries Report, 1996 and Overview
UNCTAD/DST/13	Emerging forms of technological cooperation: The case for technology partnership.
UNCTAD/LEG/1	Basic documents

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